

Airlines won't take on those routes for the very reason that they haven't up to now. They don't believe in that kind of service. There are not enough passengers for them.

Delta is proposing to maintain those routes, and US Airways now has to compete with Delta to win in those markets. That competition helps keep fares down and provides choices a monopoly carrier will not offer.

And Madam Speaker, what about justice for Delta's employees? Delta's employees have sacrificed a lot to turn the company around.

They have been through lay offs, pay cuts, and uncertainty about the company's future and even their retirement benefits. They deserve to reap what they've sown. They have hung in there. They didn't give up in hard times. And this is the kind of nation that rewards hard work and sacrifice.

Delta employees should reap the benefits of their sacrifice. They don't deserve the risks of a US Airways takeover. They have been through the worry of losing their jobs and benefits. They have fought hard to win back their security. They don't deserve to lose the seniority they've worked so long to achieve.

And that's why—they don't want US Airways! They don't want to go back. They want to move forward with a free and independent Delta airlines.

Madam Speaker, I submit to you that the U.S. Government must look at this takeover bid and measure it against our nation's antitrust laws. We must begin a rigorous antitrust investigation by the Department of Justice. House and Senate Committees must also investigate this merger proposal thoroughly.

It is our duty, it is our obligation, it is our responsibility as Members of Congress to represent the best interests of our constituents and our nation, and to hold the feet of the responsible agencies of the Federal Government to the fire to make sure that their review is thorough, careful, and fair.

I am convinced that, if they look at this deal, they will find that it is more anti-competitive than the 2000 United-US Airways merger, which the Justice Department opposed. I am convinced that this deal is more anti-competitive than almost any other airline combination possible.

Over the years, Delta has been a significant economic engine, fueling the region's growth. It has helped to make Atlanta one of the world's most important international transportation centers. The potential loss of Atlanta as Delta's home would be a tragedy—a real blow to Atlanta, to the State of Georgia, and the people of the United States.

Madam Speaker, this is a bad deal. That is why we are speaking here tonight, and we will continue to speak in opposition to this takeover bid until it is off the table. We want to secure Delta's future as a strong, stand-alone company in the heart of Atlanta.

Madam Speaker, I yield to Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I think it is very important for us to make sure that we sum up these major points that we have made here this evening, and that is this: one, this planned hostile takeover, which hopefully we will arrest and stop in the next few days, is anti-consumer, it is anti-competitive; it is not in the best interests of the American traveling public, it is not in the best interests of

the creditors to Delta, and it certainly violates, as the gentleman from Utah so eloquently stated point by point, it clearly violates the antitrust statutes of the Justice Department of this country.

So it is within the spirit of what is good and what is right about America, and let me say this to my colleagues and to you, Madam Speaker, that this country is grounded on justice. The American people are expecting justice. This is not just a case for Delta Airlines; it is not just a case for the airline industry. This is a case for the American people, and they are looking at this Congress to provide leadership, keep the feet to the fire, and make sure that this hostile takeover does not take place in the form of any kind of merger, and that Delta Airlines is allowed to stand alone and earn the right that they deserve to come back full flushed and be the outstanding airline that we know that they are.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION RELATING TO CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6411, TAX RELIEF AND HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-722) on the resolution (H. Res. 1099) relating to consideration of the bill (H.R. 6411) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running on the period of limitations while such claims are pending, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6406, TRADE LAWS MODIFICATION

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-723) on the resolution (H. Res. 1100) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6406) to modify temporarily certain rates of duty and make other technical amendments to the trade laws, to extend certain trade preference programs, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5682, HENRY J. HYDE U.S.-INDIA PEACEFUL ATOMIC ENERGY CO-OPERATION ACT OF 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-724) on the resolution (H. Res. 1101) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 5682) to exempt from certain requirements of the

Atomic Energy Act of 1954 a proposed nuclear agreement for cooperation with India, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-725) on the resolution (H. Res. 1102) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FATTAH (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and December 8 on account of personal business.

Mr. GERLACH (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today after 6:00 p.m. on account of a family commitment.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. COSTELLO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. REGULA) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HEFLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KING of Iowa, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. REGULA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SAXTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HUNTER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. REICHERT, for 5 minutes, December 8.

Mr. MCCRERY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)